

I firmly believe that without being forced to accomodate competition over the local loop, the existing baby bells would be more than content to sell inferior service, or no service at all. Please recall that it was not until cable became a serious threat that DSL was introduced -- prior to that time, you could only get ISDN service (128kbps) at very high cost, billed PER MINUTE - and that was just a connection from your home to an ISP that was ISDN capable.

If the bells are so concerned about the upkeep of the local loop, then perhaps they should divest themselves of that asset to local governments and concern themselves with selling telephone and internet service only. As for my own phone service, I'm still waiting for number portability, despite paying the number portability fee for at least a half dozen years, if not for a full decade!